



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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TEHAMA COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR TRANSPORTING CHILDREN ACROSS STATE LINES SINCE 1988 FOR PURPOSE OF CHILD MOLESTATION

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that THOMAS SHERMAN ENDICOTT, 71, of Tehama County, Calif., was arrested. A federal grand jury returned an indictment on March 26, 2009, charging ENDICOTT with six counts of transporting a minor across state lines with intent to engage in sexual activity.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Tehama County Sheriff's Department, Tehama County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, and the Oregon Coos County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Jill Thomas and Matthew Stegman, who are prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that between 1988 and June 2006, ENDICOTT repeatedly took four children under the age of 14 to either Oregon or Nevada, or both, for the purpose of sexually molesting them. Yesterday at 4:00 p.m., an FBI agent along with Tehama County law enforcement officers arrested ENDICOTT while he was driving his tractor-trailer on a Tehama County road. His arraignment will take place today at 2:00 p.m. before United States District Judge Edmund F. Brennan.

If convicted of the charges, ENDICOTT faces a maximum of life in prison with a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a life term of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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